

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/565,245

Examiner

Lars A. Olson

Applicant(s)

EIKEN, TRYGVE

Art Unit

3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the after-final amendment received from the applicant on July 25, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-6.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. On line 1 of Claim 3, the phrase "the wheelhouse" has been deleted and replaced with the phrase "a wheelhouse" in order to correct a potential lack of antecedent basis problem.
3. On line 1 of Claim 5, the phrase "the drive unit" has been deleted and replaced with the phrase "a drive unit" in order to correct a potential lack of antecedent basis problem.
4. An after-final amendment was received from the applicant on July 25, 2007.
5. Claims 7 and 8 have been canceled.

Reasons for Allowance

6. Claims 1-6 are allowed.
7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The support vessel as claimed is not shown or suggested in the prior art because of the use of a vessel that is comprised of a hull with a propulsion arrangement, a bridge and accommodation quarters that form a superstructure, storage areas within said hull, an

access opening from the outside of a stern of said hull through and or below said accommodation quarters to said storage areas, and a working platform in a bow of said hull for hose connections.

8. The prior art as disclosed by Smedal (US 5,893,333) discloses a method for loading and unloading a vessel from an offshore installation, said method being comprised of the steps of moving a vessel to an offshore installation, placing a bow section of said vessel in a docking area of said installation, loading or unloading said vessel, and backing said vessel away from said installation. Ohsaka (US 4,111,145), Johansson (US 4,008,675), Knight, Jr. et al. (US 3,386,405) and Nemec (US 3,318,276) disclose marine vessels with an access opening in the stern to allow access to storage areas in the hull. Newly cited references by Roper (US 4,138,961) and Nordstrom (US 4,043,285) also disclose vessels with an access opening in the stern to allow access to storage areas in the hull. However, none of the prior art cited demonstrates the combination of an access opening in a stern of a vessel through and or below a superstructure of said vessel to a storage area, and a working platform for hose connections located in a bow of said vessel. Therefore, none of the prior art cited shows or suggests the use of a support vessel that is comprised of a hull with a propulsion arrangement, a bridge and accommodation quarters that form a superstructure, storage areas within said hull, an access opening from the outside of a stern of said hull through and or below said accommodation quarters to said storage areas, and a working platform in a bow of said hull for hose connections.

Conclusion

9. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Exr. Lars Olson whose telephone number is (571) 272-6685.

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July 27, 2007

LARS A. OLSON
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Lars Olson
7/27/07